

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for the manufacture of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid calcium salt, which process comprises mixing of a solution of calcium chloride with a solution of a water-soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid, wherein the solution of calcium chloride is added to the solution of a water-soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid at a temperature of 30 to 45°C process parameters are selected to give a product which demonstrates improved efficiency of filtration.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 1, wherein the addition time is 5 to 60 minutes comprising mixing of a solution of calcium chloride with a solution of a water-soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid such that the addition temperature is selected to give a product which demonstrates improved efficiency of filtration.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 1 or claim 2, any preceding claim wherein after the addition of the calcium chloride solution, the mixture is stirred for a hold time of at least 10 minutes temperature is 30-45°C.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The A process according to claim 1, which comprises adding the any preceding claim comprising mixing of a solution of calcium chloride to the with a solution of a water-soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid over 5 to

60 minutes at a temperature of 30 to 45°C, holding the mixture at a temperature of 30 to 45°C for at least 10 minutes,

filtering, optionally washing, and drying the resultant product such that the addition time is selected to give a product which demonstrates improved efficiency of filtration.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 4, wherein the temperature of the mixture during the hold time is the addition temperature any preceding claim wherein the addition time is 5 to 60 minutes.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The A process according to claim 1 or claim 4, wherein the addition temperature is 32 to 43°C any preceding claim comprising mixing of a solution of calcium chloride with a solution of a water soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid such that the hold time is selected to give a product which demonstrates improved efficiency of filtration.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 6, wherein the addition temperature is 35 to 42°C any preceding claim wherein the hold time is at least 10 minutes.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 7, wherein the addition temperature is 40°C any claim which comprises addition of a solution of calcium chloride to a solution of a water soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid over 5 to 60 minutes at a temperature of 30 to 45.degree. C., holding the mixture at a temperature of 30 to 45.degree. C. for at least 10 minutes, filtering, optionally washing, and drying of the resultant product.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 4, wherein the addition time is 15 to 30 minutes any preceding claim wherein the addition temperature is adjusted to give a

product with a specific surface area less than or equal to $1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ (measured by Fisher technique).

Claim 10 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 9, wherein the hold time is at least 15 minutes any preceding claim wherein the addition temperature, addition time and hold time are adjusted to give a product with a specific surface area less than or equal to $1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ (measured by Fisher technique).

Claim 11 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 10, wherein the hold time is at least 30 minutes any preceding claim wherein the addition temperature, addition time and hold time are adjusted to give a product with a specific surface area less than or equal to $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ (measured by Fisher technique).

Claim 12 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 4, wherein the addition temperature is adjusted to give a product with a specific surface area less than or equal to $1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ as measured by Fisher technique any preceding claim wherein the product has a paste strength of more than about 45% w/w.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 4, wherein the addition temperature, addition time and hold time are adjusted to give a product with a specific surface area less than or equal to $1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ as measured by Fisher technique any preceding claim in which the product paste strength after a maximum of 15 minutes filtration on a laboratory scale is at least 50% w/w.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 4, wherein the addition temperature, addition time and hold time are adjusted to give a product with a specific surface area less than or equal to $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ as measured by Fisher technique any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the product is obtained with a paste strength of more than about 70% w/w.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The A process according to claim 4, wherein the product has a paste strength of more than about 45% w/w ~~any preceding claim wherein the water-soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid is an alkali metal salt.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 15, in which the product paste strength after a maximum of 15 minutes filtration on a laboratory scale is at least 50% w/w ~~any preceding claim wherein the water-soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid is the sodium salt.~~

Claim 17 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 16, wherein the product is obtained with a paste strength of more than about 70% w/w ~~any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein the water-soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid is an ammonium salt, a methylamine salt or a TRIS salt.~~

Claim 18 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 1 or claim 4, any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein the water-soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid is an alkali metal salt generated from the ammonium salt.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The A-process according to claim 18, wherein any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein the solution of the water-soluble salt of is generated from (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid is the sodium salt or a salt thereof.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The A process according to claim 1 or claim 4, 19 wherein the water-soluble salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-

[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid is an ammonium salt, a methylamine salt or a TRIS salt is the sodium salt.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The A process according to claim 1 or claim 4, 20 wherein the water soluble salt sodium salt is generated by treatment of an amine salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid is generated from the ammonium salt with a sodium base.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The A process according to claim 1 or claim 4, wherein the solution of the water soluble salt is generated from (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid or a salt thereof 21 where sodium base is sodium hydroxide.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The A product obtainable by a process according to claim 22, wherein the water soluble salt is the sodium salt as claimed in any preceding claim.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The process according to claim 23, wherein the sodium salt is generated by treatment of an amine salt of (E)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3R,5S)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid with a sodium base A product obtained by a process as claimed in any preceding claim.

Claim 25 (new): The process according to claim 24, wherein the sodium base is sodium hydroxide.